



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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**STATE WATER COMMISSION TO HEAR RECOMMENDATIONS
ON 19 EAST MAUI STREAM PETITIONS**

PA‘IA, MAUI – The State Commission on Water Resource Management will hold a meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 10 a.m. at the Pa‘ia Community Center in Pa‘ia, Maui, to hear recommendations on 19 east Maui instream flow standard petitions: Waikamoi, Alo, Wahinepe‘e, Puohokamoa, Haipua‘ena, Punalau/Kolea, Honomanu, Nua‘ailua, ‘Ohi‘a, West Wailuaiki, East Wailuaiki, Kopili‘ula, Puaka‘a, Waiohue, Pa‘akea, Wai‘a‘aka, Kapa‘ula, Hanawi, and Makapipi.

The Commission has the responsibility of establishing instream flow standards to protect the public interest in streams statewide.

Instream flow standards are essentially the amount of water required to flow in a stream for the protection of native fish and wildlife, recreation, scenic views, and other beneficial stream values. The Commission must also balance these instream uses with non-instream uses, such as water for drinking and home use, agriculture, cultivation of taro, and hydropower.

The streams under consideration have been used for more than 100 years to provide water for sugar in the central Maui plains. More recently, surface water has also gone to upcountry Maui residents for domestic and agricultural use.

A little over one year ago, the Commission amended the instream flow standards for the hydrologic units of Honopou, Hanehoi, Pi‘ina‘au, Waiokamilo, and Wailuanui. The

Commission staff spent the last year implementing the standards, monitoring the release of water, and investigating stream conditions for these east Maui streams.

In October, the Commission held a public fact gathering meeting in Pa‘ia to accept oral and written testimony from the public on the remaining 19 streams. The Commission staff will present their findings and recommendations on these remaining petitions.

“While the proposed recommendations seek to balance the instream and non-instream uses, they were also developed in consideration of last year’s decision by the Commission,” said Ken Kawahara, Water Commission deputy director.

Anyone with special needs requiring accommodations to participate at this meeting should call (808) 587-0214 or toll free from Maui 984-2400 ext. 70214 for assistance at least four days prior to the meeting. For additional information on this meeting, visit the Commission’s website at <http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/cwrm>

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For more information, news media may contact:

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